



FEMA

Fact Sheet

## Assistance of Firefighters Grants

### Enhancing First Responders' Capabilities

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Assistance to Firefighters Grants is an important component of the Administration's larger, coordinated effort to strengthen the Nation's ability to respond to fire and fire related hazards. This program has been providing funding to fire departments and other first responders since 2001. To date, a total of \$2.75 Billion in grants have been awarded to enable first responder organizations to acquire response equipment, personal protective equipment, training, vehicles, and to fund fire prevention activities.

### Purpose

The purpose of the (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The AFG offers grants for activities under Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) in order to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of deaths and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. Funding under FP&S also supports Firefighter Safety Research and Development activities. The allocation of FP&S awards is a highly competitive process; awards are determined based on an applicant's ability to both address FP&S program priorities and provide the most compelling justification for their need. Applicants whose requests meet these criteria are reviewed by a review panel composed of fire service personnel.

### Funding

In FY 2008, Congress appropriated a total of \$560 million to carry out the activities of the AFG Program. The governing statute includes a requirement that no less than five percent of the appropriated funds support fire prevention and safety activities. Therefore, no less than \$28 million of the appropriation must be awarded for fire prevention and safety activities. However, this is a minimum amount. FEMA recognizes the importance of prevention and safety projects and, therefore, has reserved a total of \$35 million for the FP&S grants.

### Eligibility

Eligible applicants for Fire Prevention and Safety Grants include fire departments as well as national, regional, state, local, or community organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention or safety programs and activities. Finally, private and public non-profit organizations, academic institutions, non-federal governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individual researchers (i.e. doctoral candidates) are eligible to apply for funding for research and development activities.

---

*FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.*





### Program Highlights

Two areas of activities were eligible for funding through FY 2008 AFG FP&S awards.

#### Fire Prevention and Safety Activity

- Public education
- Arson prevention and awareness
- Code enforcement and awareness
- Wildfire prevention and education
- Juvenile fire setter intervention
- Burn prevention
- Media/public relations campaigns
- Sprinkler awareness campaigns
- Smoke alarm distribution

#### Firefighter Safety Research and Development

- Database systems
- Behavioral, clinical, and social science studies
- Technology and product development studies
- Research regarding dissemination and implementation of effective programs and products

### Program Coordination

The following entities were involved in developing the FY 2008 AFG guidance:

- **Department of Homeland Security**
  - FEMA Grants Program Directorate (GPD)
  - U.S. Fire Administration (USFA)
- **Industry**
  - International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
  - International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
  - National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)
  - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
  - National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)
  - International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
  - International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI)
  - North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD)
  - Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)
  - National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)

---

*FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.*

